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ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSIONEEP 27 A 11: 13

Peoples Energy Services Corporation)	Docket 07- <u>0499</u>
Petition for Relief to Protect Peoples' Financial)	
Reporting Requirements from disclosure for not)	
less than five years in order to protect highly)	
confidential and proprietary information.		

PETITION

Peoples Energy Services Corporation ("Peoples"), hereby petitions the Illinois Commerce Commission ("Commission") pursuant to Section 200.430 of the Commission's Rules of Practice (83 Ill. Admin. Code §200.430) for relief to protect from disclosure for not less than five years highly confidential and proprietary information included in Peoples' Financial Reporting Requirements, which includes the borrowing agreement between Peoples and Peoples Energy Corporation ("PEC") ("Borrowing Agreement"). The Borrowing Agreement relates to Peoples' continuing obligation to comply with the requirements for certification pursuant to Section 16-115 of the Public Utilities Act (the "Act") and 83 Ill. Admin. Code Part 451 ("Part 451"). In support of this Petition, Peoples states the following:

- 1. On September 26, 2007, Peoples submitted, via overnight delivery, its Borrowing Agreement for filing with the Commission.
- 2. Peoples' Borrowing Agreement contains confidential trade information and market sensitive information regarding Peoples' provision of service to residential and small commercial customers in Illinois. Peoples considers this information highly proprietary and confidential, the disclosure of which to competitors, or potential competitors, would be detrimental to Peoples.

- 3. The retail electric service industry is highly competitive and it is essential that public disclosure of the proprietary and confidential information contained in the Borrowing Agreement be avoided for a period of at least five years because of the competitive harm which disclosure of such information would likely cause Peoples.
- 4. 83 Ill. Admin. Code Section 451.60 provides, in part, as follows: "If an applicant or ARES believes any of the information to be disclosed by an applicant or ARES is privileged or confidential, the applicant or ARES should request that the Commission enter an order to protect the confidential, proprietary or trade secret nature of any data, information or studies pursuant to 83 Ill. Adm. Code 200.430. The applicant or ARES shall designate which information is privileged and confidential. Such information shall be marked as "confidential" and submitted separately under seal to the Chief Clerk of the Commission." In this instance, Peoples, the ARES, marked its Borrowing Agreement as confidential.
- 5. Section 7(g) of the Illinois Freedom of Information Act provides, in part, that the following are exempt from inspection and copying: "trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person or business where the trade secrets or information are proprietary, privileged or confidential, or where disclosure of the trade secrets or information may cause competitive harm." 5 ILCS §140/7. The information contained in Peoples' Borrowing Agreement falls within this exemption.
- 6. Peoples seeks an Order from the Commission, without hearing, protecting from disclosure, for a period of not less than five years from the date of such Order, the trade information contained in Peoples' Borrowing Agreement.
- 7. For the foregoing reasons, there are now compelling reasons for affording this Borrowing Agreement confidential and proprietary treatment.

WHEREFORE, Peoples Energy Services Corp. respectfully requests that the Commission enter an Order, without hearing, protecting from disclosure for a period of not less than five years, Peoples' Borrowing Agreement, which was filed by overnight delivery, with the Chief Clerk of the Commission on September 26, 2007 pursuant to Part 451 regarding Peoples' Financial Reporting.

Respectfully submitted,

PEOPLES ENERGY SERVICES, INC.

By: an De Sottoli

Vice-President

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STATE OF ILLINOIS)) ss. COUNTY OF COOK)

VERIFICATION

I, Ann DeBortoli, being first duly sworn, depose and say that I am Peoples Energy Services Corporation's Vice-President, that I have read the foregoing letter by Peoples Energy Service Corporation, that I am knowledgeable of the facts stated therein and that the facts stated therein are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

Ann DeBortoli

Vice-President

Peoples Energy Services Corporation

SUBSCRIBED and SWORN to before me

this day of September 2007

"OFFICIAL SEAL"

CLAUDIA M. ZELINKA

NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF ILLINOIS

MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 11/8/2010

Claudia M Zehnhi